

Application S/N 10/741,653  
Amendment Dated: February 14, 2007  
Response to Office Action dated: January 16, 2007

CE12083JME

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-13 (canceled)

14. (previously presented) An electronic device, comprising:

a housing, comprising:

a fixed housing portion;

a removable housing portion having a recess and at least one audio port, wherein the audio port is part of the recess;

a latching mechanism for assembling the removable housing portion to the fixed housing portion, wherein the latch mechanism comprises:

a latch element rotatably coupled to the removable housing portion, wherein the latch element rotation includes an orientation for engaging the latch element to assemble the removable housing portion to the fixed housing portion; and

an audio channel, wherein the audio port is part of the audio channel and the audio channel is formed when the removable housing portion is assembled to the fixed housing portion.

15. (original) The electronic device as defined in claim 14, wherein the latch element rotation further includes another orientation for disengaging the latch element to disassemble the removable housing portion from the fixed housing portion.

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16. (previously presented) The electronic device as defined in claim 14, wherein a gap is formed between the latch element and the recess when the removable housing portion is assembled to the fixed housing portion, and further wherein the audio channel comprises the gap.

17. (original) The electronic device of claim 14, wherein the latching mechanism further comprises:

a secondary latch element, wherein the housing is mechanically coupled between the latch element and at least a portion of the secondary latch element, wherein the secondary latch element comprises at least one secondary latch element audio port aligned with the at least one audio port, and further wherein the audio channel further comprises the at least one secondary latch element audio port.

18. (original) The electronic device as defined in claim 14, a keypad, wherein the keypad is assembled between the fixed housing portion and the removable housing portion.

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19. (currently amended) A method of operating a latching mechanism, comprising the steps of:

mechanically coupling a latch element to a recess of a housing, wherein the recess includes at least one audio port, wherein the housing includes a fixed housing portion and a removable housing portion and the recess is part of the removable housing portion;

creating an audio channel by engaging the latch element within the housing such that the removable housing portion is assembled to the fixed housing portion, wherein the audio ports are part of the audio channel; and

porting audio through the audio ports of the audio channel.

20. (original) The method of operating a latching mechanism as defined in claim 19, wherein the mechanically coupling step includes forming a gap between the latch element and the housing, and further wherein the audio channel created in the creating step comprises the gap.

21. (original) The method of operating a latching mechanism as defined in claim 19, wherein engaging of the latch element within the housing comprises rotating the latch element to an orientation.

22. (currently amended) The method of operating a latching mechanism as defined in claim 21, ~~wherein the housing comprises a fixed housing portion mechanically to a removable housing portion, the method further comprising the step of:~~

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assembling a keypad between the fixed housing portion and the removable housing portion in response to the engaging of the latch element within the housing.

23. (currently amended) The method of operating a latching mechanism as defined in claim 21, further comprising the step of:

disengaging the latch element from the housing by rotating the latch element to another orientation, which allows the removable housing portion to be disassembled from the fixed housing portion.

24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented) The method of operating a latching mechanism as defined in claim 19, further comprising the step of:

mechanically coupling at least a portion of the housing between the latch element and at least a portion of a secondary latch element,

wherein the creating of the audio channel step further comprises aligning the audio ports of the housing with a secondary latch element audio ports of the secondary latch element.

26. (original) The method of operating a latching mechanism as defined in claim 25, further comprising the step of:

mechanically coupling an audio element to the secondary latch element.

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27. (original) The method of operating a latching mechanism as defined in claim 26, further comprising the steps of:

generating an audio output by the audio element; and  
transmitting the audio output through the audio channel.

28. (original) The method of operating a latching mechanism as defined in claim 26, further comprising the steps of:

receiving an audio input; and  
transferring the audio input to the audio element through the audio channel.

29. (canceled)

30. (new) The electronic device as defined in claim 15, wherein the latch element comprises a protrusion, wherein the recess further comprises a similarly-shaped opening, and further wherein the protrusion aligns with the similarly-shaped opening in the orientation for engaging the latch element to assemble the removable housing portion to the fixed housing portion.

31. (new) The electronic device as defined in claim 30, wherein the protrusion misaligns with the similarly-shaped opening in the orientation for disengaging the latch element to disassemble the removable housing portion from the fixed housing portion.

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32. (new) The electronic device as defined in claim 17, further comprising an audio element, wherein at least a portion of the secondary latch element is mechanically coupled between the audio element and the fixed housing portion.

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